

U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Western District of New York*

Further Inquiries (716) 843-5814

PRESS RELEASE

December 14, 2005

RETURN PREPARER PLEADS GUILTY TO FILING FALSE CLAIMS WITH THE IRS

RE: UNITED STATES v. ALFREDO RODRIGUEZ

Acting United States Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter announced today that Alfredo Rodriguez, of 182 Albert Street Rochester, New York, pled guilty and admitted to filing false income tax returns in front of United States District Court Judge Charles J. Siragusa, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §287, which carries a maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard A. Resnick, who is handling the case, stated that Rodriguez was a return preparer in the Rochester area. As a preparer, he submitted fifty-four returns for thirty-seven taxpayers with the IRS for taxable years 2000 and 2001. All of these returns made claims for refunds based on inaccurate information. Rodriguez submitted these claims to the IRS without his clients' knowledge. After having the refund checks diverted to himself, he provided lesser amount to his clients.

The investigation was conducted by the Internal Revenue Service under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Anne Marie Coons, Criminal Investigation Division.

Sentencing is scheduled for March 22, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in front of Judge Siragusa.